

## ABSTRACTION LADDER

Start reading from the bottom *UP*

8. "wealth"

8. The word "wealth" is at an extremely high level of abstraction, omitting *almost* all reference to the characteristics of Bessie.

7. "asset"

7. When Bessie is referred to as an "asset," still more of her characteristics are left out.

6. "farm assets"

6. When Bessie is included among "farm assets," reference is made only to what she has in common with all other salable items on the farm.

5. "livestock"

5. When Bessie is referred to as "livestock," only those characteristics she has in common with pigs, chickens, goats, etc., are referred to.

4. "cow"

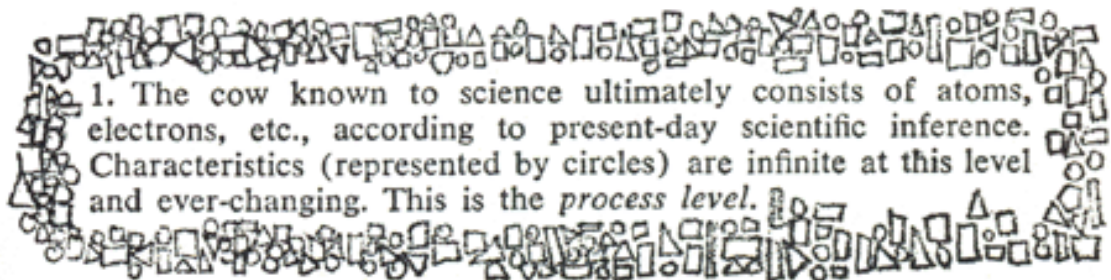
4. The word "cow" stands for the characteristics we have abstracted as common to cow<sub>1</sub>, cow<sub>2</sub>, cow<sub>3</sub> . . . cow<sub>n</sub>. Characteristics peculiar to specific cows are left out.

3. "Bessie"

3. The word "Bessie" (cow<sub>1</sub>) is the *name* we give to the object of perception of level 2. The name *is not* the object; it merely *stands for* the object and omits reference to many of the characteristics of the object.

2.

2. The cow we perceive is not the word, but the object of experience, that which our nervous system abstracts (selects) from the totality that constitutes the process-cow. Many of the characteristics of the process-cow are left out.



# The Nizkor Project

## Fallacy: Straw Man

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### Description of Straw Man

The Straw Man fallacy is committed when a person simply ignores a person's actual position and substitutes a distorted, exaggerated or misrepresented version of that position. This sort of "reasoning" has the following pattern:

1. Person A has position X.
2. Person B presents position Y (which is a distorted version of X).
3. Person B attacks position Y.
4. Therefore X is false/incorrect/flawed.

This sort of "reasoning" is fallacious because attacking a distorted version of a position simply does not constitute an attack on the position itself. One might as well expect an attack on a poor drawing of a person to hurt the person.

### Examples of Straw Man

1. Prof. Jones: "The university just cut our yearly budget by \$10,000."  
Prof. Smith: "What are we going to do?"  
Prof. Brown: "I think we should eliminate one of the teaching assistant positions. That would take care of it."  
Prof. Jones: "We could reduce our scheduled raises instead."  
Prof. Brown: " I can't understand why you want to bleed us dry like that, Jones."
2. "Senator Jones says that we should not fund the attack submarine program. I disagree entirely. I can't understand why he wants to leave us defenseless like that."
3. Bill and Jill are arguing about cleaning out their closets:  
Jill: "We should clean out the closets. They are getting a bit messy."  
Bill: "Why, we just went through those closets last year. Do we have to clean them out everyday?"  
Jill: "I never said anything about cleaning them out every day. You just want to keep all your junk forever, which is just ridiculous."

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# Life Church

going to church or claiming to follow Jesus is not enough!

*Matthew 7:21-29; Matthew 21:28-32; Acts 5:1-11*

In Acts chapter 2:1-40 we read about the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church and Peter's subsequent spirit-led sermon. Those who heard him responded: *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. - Acts 2:42*

Here we can see that following Jesus includes:

- Bible teaching and study
- Fellowship
- The Lord's Supper / Communion
- Prayer

The rest of the chapter (Acts 2:43-47) shows them worshipping together, sharing what they had like family, and experiencing God's supernatural power.

## About You

Now that you've seen this material, you're in a position to intelligently share the good news with others. Ask God to give you an opportunity to do so and feel free to use some of these brochures as resources!

## Scriptures

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# Life Church

## Stay In Touch!

Ask about our other handouts, check out our web site, and sign up for one of our courses.

Follow the "E-mail Lists" link on our web site to join our Connect List.

Follow the "e-Life" link on our web site to join our online community.



Life Church

Sunday  
Worship  
10:30 A.M.  
at the  
Hampton Inn & Suites  
811 Massachusetts Av.  
Boston, MA 02118

Contact us:  
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http://www.lifechurchboston.org/

*Purposeful Lives Making a Powerful Difference!*

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Revelation 22:1-2

# Life Church

## Welcome to Life Church!

**Are you a Christian?**

*Consider following Jesus with us!*

**Not sure?**

*We can help you figure it out!*

**Curious?**

*We welcome your questions!*

**Are you a "regular" here?**

*We expect you to know this stuff!*

**Are you a recent visitor?**

*Ask one of our "regulars" about it.*

## About Us

### Visiting Us

Since 2003 we've been meeting on Sundays for worship, teaching, and fellowship, and in small groups during the week - ask about joining one! On first Sundays we celebrate the Lord's Supper (Communion) and, instead of a formal sermon, we have prayer, testimonies, or questions & answers.

<http://www.lifechurchboston.org/>

## Mission

Our mission is to teach people:

to enjoy knowing Jesus without fear, inadequacy, guilt, or shame,

*Acts 2:41-47; Acts 4:31-37; Romans 8:28-39; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1John 4:13-18*

to follow him together as his family,  
*Mark 10:23-31; Acts 2:41-47; Acts 4:31-37*

to function together as his body,  
*Romans 12:1-16; 1Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:7-16*

and to work together to expand his kingdom and glorify him.

*Matthew 5:13-14; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:41-47; Acts 5:12-16*

## Giving

Giving is a form of worship and God wants us to give cheerfully rather than reluctantly (2 Corinthians 8 - 9). We are supported by our members and friends, so we don't want visitors to feel pressured at offering time. If you want to contribute, please use an offering envelope and make any checks payable to: Life Church (or use our web site: <http://www.lifechurchboston.org/>).

## Pastoral Leadership Team

Gayle Baxter, William Baxter, Rocklyn & Eva Clarke (founders), Al Copeland, Valerie Copeland, Crystal Dixon, Michael Dixon, Bil Mooney-McCoy, Paulea Mooney-McCoy.

Let us help you fulfill your ministry!  
*Ephesians 4:7-16*

## About God

**The Good News (Gospel)**  
Through Jesus, God has become king and his kingdom is within your grasp!

God created a wonderful world, but human rebellion has broken it.

*Genesis 1 - 2; Psalm 8; Genesis 3 - 6; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 8:18-27*

God is recreating the world through his kingdom (government).

*Ephesians 1:3-10; Matthew 25:31-46; Hebrews 12:25-29; Revelation 21:1 - 22:5*

God's kingdom is a family that he wants us to join!

*Matthew 12:46-50; Ephesians 3:14-15; Hebrews 2:10-15; 1Peter 4:17-19; Revelation 22:1-5*

We join God's family on his terms by repenting and following Jesus!

*Matthew 4:17-22; Matthew 17:1-8; Luke 9:23-25; John 6:25-29; John 10:22-30*

## Jesus

Jesus is God's eternal, unique son who announced God's Kingdom, died for the world's sins, and rose bodily from the dead in victory. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell his story. He is the Christ, or Messiah - God's Chosen King and the world's true Lord. He reveals who God really is.

*1 Corinthians 15; Acts 2:14-36; Matthew 11:25-30; Colossians 1:15-23; Hebrews 1:1-4*

## Following Jesus



The Bible uses many terms to describe those who follow Jesus: believer, born again, Christian, disciple, saint, saved.

**Believer** - someone who believes in or has faith in Jesus and therefore follows him.

*John 4:39-41; Acts 2:44-47; Acts 4:31-32; Galatians 6:9-10; James 2:1*

**Born again** - those who believe in Jesus are born again from God's Spirit. You must be born again to see or enter the Kingdom of God.

*John 3:1-21*

**Christian** - means "belonging to Christ" "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch" - *Acts 11:19-26*

**Disciples** - those who are trained by the one they are following.

*Matthew 5:1-2; Acts 6:1-7; Acts 9:1-31; Acts 11:19-26; Acts 18:23*

**Saints** - those who are "sanctified", or set apart for God's use.

*Romans 1:1-8; Ephesians 1:1-2; Philippians 1:1-2*

**Saved** - those who by following Jesus have been rescued from this world and God's wrath.

*Luke 8:12; Luke 8:4-15; John 10:1-9; Acts 2:17-21; Acts 4:8-12; Romans 10:1-13*

Those who belong to Jesus (i.e. "Christians") hear his voice and follow him, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

*John 10:22-30; John 14:15-31; John 16:5-16*

Only those who follow Jesus in a public, verifiable way are Christians. Merely

# Life Church

*Matthew 7:21-29, 13:1-23; Luke 8:1-18; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

## Discussion Groups

After the sermon we usually break up into groups to discuss the message and how to apply it to our lives. This is not just the leaders' job - we all help each other!

*Matthew 7:21-29; Romans 15:13-14*

## Offering

Giving is part of worship - be a cheerfull rather than a reluctant giver. We are supported by our members and friends, so we don't want visitors to feel pressured at offering time. Plan ahead to consistently give God the best of the first portion of your income. When giving, please use offering envelopes and make any checks payable to: Life Church (or use our web site: <http://www.lifechurchboston.org/>).

*Exodus 23:19; Proverbs 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 8 - 9*

## Announcements & Dismissal

After announcements and dismissal folks tend to hang out for extended fellowship.

## History & Mission

Life Church was founded in 2003. Our mission is to teach people to enjoy knowing

## Scriptures

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# Life Church

Jesus without fear, inadequacy, guilt, or shame; to follow him together as his family; to function together as his body; and to work together to expand his kingdom and glorify him.

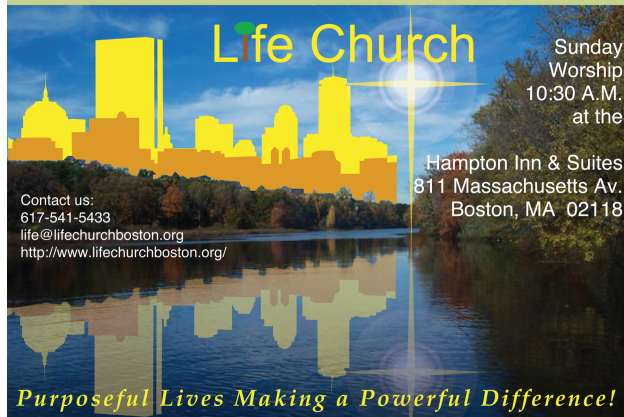
*See our "Welcome To Life Church" brochure to learn more about our mission, the Good News, Jesus, and how to follow him!*

## Put This To Use

Now that you've read this, use it to help others make the most of their visit.

## Stay In Touch!

Check out one of our weekly life groups! Please keep your contact informaton updated either through a "Welcome Card" or your offering envelope.



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## Sunday Life

Welcome! This brochure describes our church meetings and how to make the most of them as we celebrate Jesus and proclaim the Good News:

### Jesus

Our true king! The world's true lord!

*Isaiah 9:1-7; Matthew 16:13-20; John 1:1-18; 43-51*

### The Good News (Gospel)

Through Jesus, God has become king and his kingdom is within your grasp!

*Mark 1:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-28; Ephesians 1:3-10*

### What To Expect

We meet as a congregation for worship, teaching, and fellowship on Sundays and in "life groups" during the week.

### Celebrating Jesus

Our meetings are family gatherings where we celebrate the head of the family: Jesus! Following Jesus makes

you family no matter what your church background. Even if you don't yet follow Jesus, please be our honored guest and celebrate him with us!

*Luke 19:28-40; John 10:1-21; Hebrews 13:15-16*

## Sunday Meetings

Our regular meetings include: Pre-meeting and informal fellowship, Worship, Sermon, Discussion groups, Offering, Announcements, Dismissal.

## First Sundays, etc.

On first Sundays, in place of the sermon, we rotate through prayer, testimonies, or questions & answers.

## Preparing To Visit

It all starts the night before! Don't let Saturday night interfere with Sunday morning. Try to get a good night's sleep.

## What To Wear

No need to dress up! Wear comfortable clothes so you can move freely. Avoid anything distracting or attention-getting - It's all about Jesus, not you!

*1 Timothy 2:8-9; James 2:1-13*

## What To Bring

Bring a modern English Bible. We use the NIV, but there are other good choices (e.g. NASB, ESV, etc.).

*Acts 2:42-47; 17:10-12*

## How To Act

Be courteous and respectful. Use your gifts to help others. Avoid moving around the room during the service. If you do need to move, avoid distracting others.

*1 Corinthians 12:7-11;*

## Hearing From God

God wants to speak to you if you're willing to listen! It may be through an external voice or an internal one. It might be through a strong impression that you just can't "shake" or through something someone else says to you. It will **never** contradict his Word! Share what you think you're hearing and let us help you discover what God is saying!

*Acts 13:1-3; Hebrews 11:1-6; James 2:5-8*

## Don't Be A Consumer

Don't just come to receive! Come as a family member and focus on serving others. Look around to see where help is needed and how your gifts or simple availability might be useful.

*Mark 10:35-45; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 14:26-33*

## Pre-Meeting

Pray, hang out, help out. Try not to interfere with rehearsal or setup.

## Worship

### Silence Your Cell Phone!

## Don't Miss Worship!



In worship we give God our love and experience his power, glory, and satisfaction for our souls. Our worship as a group gives God something we can't give him in our individual worship.

*Psalm 63:1-6; Psalm 150; Acts 2:42-47*

## Give God Your Attention

Worship celebrates God for who he is and what he has done. God deserves our worship whether or not we feel like doing so. Because he has revealed himself uniquely through Jesus Christ, we also celebrate God by celebrating Jesus. Worship helps align a rebellious universe with the God who created it.

*Psalm 8; Romans 8:18-27; Hebrews 13:15-16; Revelation 15:1-4*

## Don't Be A Spectator

Participate! Use your mouth, hands, and feet and let God know how much you appreciate him (for who he is, what he has done, and what he is doing).

*Psalm 47; Luke 19:28-40*

## Sermon

Our sermons examine one or more Bible passages to determine what they meant to their original audience. We then apply this to ourselves to discover what God is saying to us. Listen prayerfully, take notes, and retain what God is saying to you.